

IN SUPPORT OF H.J. RES. 54; GIVING POSTHUMOUS U.S. CITIZENSHIP TO GENERAL CASIMIR PULASKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 54, honoring the heroism and sacrifice of General Casimir Pulaski (1748–1779), who fought valiantly with the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary war and died for freedom and American independence.

General Pulaski was born in Poland in 1748. As a young man of fifteen, Pulaski joined the Polish army, along with his father, to fight Russian and Prussian interference in Polish political affairs. After being outlawed by Russia for his actions in favor of liberty, Pulaski moved to Paris where he soon met Benjamin Franklin. In his quest to find mercenary soldiers, Franklin convinced Casimir Pulaski to join the colonies' cause against Great Britain.

In 1777, Casimir Pulaski came to Philadelphia to meet General George Washington. Upon meeting Washington Pulaski wrote in a letter that: "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it."

On September 11, 1777, Pulaski fought bravely in the battle at Brandywine, helping to avert a disastrous American defeat and courageously saving the life of George Washington. General Washington was so impressed with Pulaski's valor and abilities at Brandywine Creek that he recommended that Continental Congress appoint Pulaski as general of the American cavalry.

General Pulaski continued serving the Continental Army for two years until a major offensive in October 1779 took his life. On an assault against British forces in Savannah, Georgia, Casimir Pulaski was mortally wounded. Once taken aboard the American ship the *USS Wasp*, Pulaski died at sea on October 11, 1779.

Directly after his heroic death in 1779, the Continental Congress resolved that a monument be erected in General Pulaski's honor. Today, almost every city has a street, memorial or a school named in Pulaski's memory.

We in Western New York have the great privilege of having a strong and vibrant Polish American community. The Polish influence in Western New York can be traced back to Pieter Stadnitski, one of the partners of the Holland Land Office Company; the Dutch company which purchased and brought settlers to the area in the early 19th century. Since that time the community in Cheektowaga has thrived both culturally and politically. It is therefore fitting that the Pulaski Parade honoring General Pulaski is to take place in Cheektowaga, NY on July 17, 2005. This parade will honor Polish artists, politicians, dignitaries and heroes like Pulaski. I very much look forward to attending this parade, supporting the great courage of General Casimir Pulaski and saluting our great Polish American friends in Western New York.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH "BETSY" HOFFMAN

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elizabeth "Betsy" Hoffman for her devoted services as President of the University of Colorado System. President Hoffman has provided unwavering leadership to the University of Colorado bringing about several major achievements to each campus in the CU system. President Hoffman created and implemented CU Vision 2010, a bold system wide effort to enhance the University of Colorado in teaching, research, and service, by establishing a commitment to a culture of excellence.

I would like to recognize President Hoffman for her tireless efforts in working with Congress, federal agencies, local governments, and businesses that have furthered the development of a world-class health sciences center located at the Fitzsimons campus. Most recently, President Hoffman guided the University of Colorado through a consolidation of the Denver and Health Sciences Center campuses creating the number one research institution in the Rocky Mountain West at \$330 million a year.

Under her direction, the Boulder campus has consistently ranked among the top tier of public universities in federal research funding and first among public universities in NASA funding, which has bolstered and created new partnerships with private industry in the community.

President Hoffman has worked to uniquely position the Colorado Springs campus as the fastest growing campus within the University of Colorado System. She has cultivated partnerships with U.S. Space Command and NORAD to provide education, training, and research in areas of homeland defense and homeland security and directly supporting government efforts to promote the development of a professional space cadre.

President Hoffman has facilitated a record level of private support including \$250 million to establish the Coleman Institute to assist those with cognitive disabilities, providing the distinct honor of receiving the largest private gift to a public university at that time.

As an appointed member of the National Science Board and serving as Chair to the Board's Committee on Education and Human Resources, President Hoffman has championed policies for the University of Colorado and its peers to advance their basic research and applied science programs.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to offer my thanks to President Hoffman for her commitment and record of achievement as President of the University of Colorado System. I have enjoyed our working partnership and wish her and her husband, Brian, the best in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSA PARKS' REFUSAL TO GIVE UP HER SEAT ON THE BUS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution commemorating Rosa Parks and her decision to stand up to injustice 50 years ago. On December 1, 1955, Ms. Parks refused to obey a bus driver's order that she give up her bus seat in the black section to a white man because the white section was full. It is the courage, dignity, and determination that Ms. Parks exemplified on this day that allows most historians to credit her with beginning the modern day civil rights movement. Ms. Parks's actions on December 1, 1955 led to the desegregation of American society and enabled all of this nation's citizens to realize freedom and equality.

The arrest of Ms. Parks led African Americans and sympathizers of other races to boycott the Montgomery city bus line until the buses in Montgomery were desegregated. The 381 day Montgomery Bus Boycott encouraged other courageous people across the United States to organize in protest and demand equal rights for all. The fearless acts of civil disobedience displayed by Rosa Parks and others resulted in the United States Supreme Court, on November 13, 1956, affirming a district court decision that held that Montgomery segregation codes deny and deprive African Americans of the equal protection of the laws. This decision would lead to other landmark Supreme Court decisions in which the Court would rule in the interest of justice and equality.

In the years following the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Ms. Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1957 and continued her civil rights work by working in my District Office. Ms. Parks was with the office from 1965 until 1988. In the more than twenty years that Ms. Parks was in the office, she worked with a tireless spirit for the people of Detroit and other Americans. In 1987, she started the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in Detroit, a nonprofit organization which motivates youth to reach their highest potential. So it is with great pleasure and honor that I stand today to recognize not only a civil rights pioneer, but a member of my staff, a constituent, and a friend.

It is in this recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Ms. Parks's refusal to give up her seat on the bus, that I ask the Congress and the great people of this nation to work with the same courage, dignity, and determination exemplified by her to address modern day inequalities and injustice. The American dream is out of reach for millions. The United States is one of the richest nations in the world so I ask: Why aren't our schools thriving? Why are so many African Americans unemployed? Why are health care, housing, and college education so difficult to afford?

Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks displayed a defiant act of courage 50 years ago so that these questions would not be raised today. I know that this Congress and the people of this nation can work to further the ideals of Ms. Parks and the Civil Rights Movement.